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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/868,328	11/09/2001	Sangki Rhee	24679	9122

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NATH & ASSOCIATES
1030 15th STREET
6TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

RAO, MANJUNATH N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1652

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/868,328

Applicant(s)

RHEE ET AL.

Examiner

Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,6,9-14 and 18-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1, 10-14, 18-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 10-14, 18-24 are currently pending and are present for examination.

Claims 3, 6, and 9 are now under consideration. Claims 1, 10-14, 18-24 remain withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

Applicants' amendments to claims and arguments filed on 1-2-04, have been fully considered and are deemed to be persuasive to overcome the rejections previously applied. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn.

Amendments to Specification

Applicants' request for an amendment to be made at "page x" and "line y" which makes no sense has not been entered (see page 4 of the response). Correction and resubmission is required for the amendment to be considered and entered.

Drawings Objection

Drawings submitted in this application are accepted by the Examiner for examination purposes only. Legend to figure 3 continues to be represented without a SEQ ID NO. Correction is required.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). However, the priority document is in Korean. In order to perfect the priority date applicants need to submit an English translation of the priority document.

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Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicants have filed "appendix to specification" comprising two attachments. Attachment 2 appears to be a replacement for "page 26". If this is so applicants need to make it clear that said filed attachment is replacement sheet for page 26. Appropriate correction is required.

Sequence Compliance

Applicant is required to comply with the sequence rules by inserting the sequence identification numbers of all sequences recited within the claims and/or specification. It is particularly noted that applicants do not provide SEQ ID NO to the sequence depicted in figure 3. Applicants have also filed an "an appendix to specification" with two attachments wherein attachment 1 comprises a sequence without any SEQ ID NO. See particularly 37 CFR 1.821(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 6 and 9 are rejected as the invention appears to employ novel vector and bacterial strain. Since the vector and strain are essential to the claimed invention, they must be obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification or otherwise be readily available to the public. The claimed plasmids' sequences are not fully disclosed, nor have all the sequences required for their construction been shown to be publicly known and freely available. The

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enablement requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 may be satisfied by a deposit of the plasmid/strain.

The specification does not disclose a repeatable process to obtain the vectors and it is not apparent if the DNA sequences are readily available to the public. Accordingly, it is deemed that a deposit of these plasmids should have been made in accordance with 37 CFR 1.801-1.809.

It is noted that applicants have deposited the strain in a Korean Culture Collection, but there is no indication in the specification as to public availability. If the deposit was made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by applicants, or a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature and registration number, stating that the specific strain has been deposited under the Budapest Treaty and that the strain will be irrevocably and without restriction or condition released to the public upon the issuance of the patent, would satisfy the deposit requirement made herein.

If the deposit has not been made under the Budapest treaty, then in order to certify that the deposit meets the criteria set forth in 37 CFR 1.801-1.809, applicants may provide assurance or compliance by an affidavit or declaration, or by a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature and registration number, showing that:

1. during the pendency of this application , access to the invention will be afforded to the Commissioner upon request;
2. all restrictions upon availability to the public will be irrevocably removed upon granting of the patent;
3. the deposit will be maintained in a public repository for a period of 30 years or 5 years after the last request or for the effective life of the patent, whichever is longer; and
4. the deposit will be replaced if it should ever become inviable.

In response to the previous Office action, applicant argue that the rejection should be withdrawn because applicants have already made a deposit according to Budapest treaty and

“Examiner lacks authority to question the official action of the United States Congress in ratifying the Budapest treaty and recognizing the authority of that depository”.

Examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant’s arguments and assures applicants that he is least interested in questioning the authority of any one for ratifying any treaty but simply following rules. Biological deposits made according to the Budapest treaty do not clarify any conditions that may have been set forth by the depositor with respect to public availability. Therefore, even if a deposit has been made according to Budapest treaty, in order to satisfy the enablement requirement as per 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph, applicant may provide assurance or compliance by an affidavit or declaration, or by a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature and registration number, showing that:

1. during the pendency of this application , access to the invention will be afforded to the Commissioner upon request;
2. all restrictions upon availability to the public will be irrevocably removed upon granting of the patent;
3. the deposit will be maintained in a public repository for a period of 30 years or 5 years after the last request or for the effective life of the patent, whichever is longer; and
4. the deposit will be replaced if it should ever become inviable. Applicant is urged to refer to the MPEP for more details.

Therefore, the above rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

Claim 3 is allowable. Without acquiescing to applicant's arguments, Examiner has withdrawn the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and (b) in view of cancellation of said claims.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

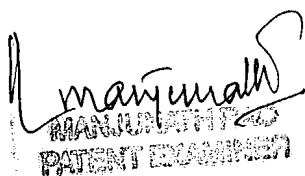
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0939. The examiner can normally be reached on 6.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4242 for regular communications

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and 703-308-4242 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1600.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Manjunath", is written over a rectangular stamp. The stamp contains the text "MANJUNATH N. RAO" and "PATENT EXAMINER" in a bold, sans-serif font.

Manjunath N. Rao

March 19, 2004